

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 183439

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS - TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: BIB TRANSMITTER FACILITIES IN U.K.

DAVID M. ABSHIRE, CHAIRMAN, BOARD FOR INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING, ACCOMPANIED BY WALTER R. ROBERTS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, BIB, WILL VISIT LONDON WEEK OF JULY 26. ABSHIRE'S RECENT PUBLICATION INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING: A NEW DIMENSION IN WESTERN DIPLOMACY WILL BE INCLUDED IN TEA DISCUSSION ON BASKET III GIVEN BY ALLEN LEE WILLIAMS, M.P., IN HOUSE OF COMMONS, JULY 27. ABSHIRE WILL ALSO DISCUSS SECTION IN JUST SIGNED P.L. 94-350 (FOREIGN RELATIONS AUTHORIZATION ACT-FY 1977) WHICH READS AS FOLLOWS:

"NOT LATER THAN JANUARY 31, 1977, THE PRESIDENT SHALL SUBMIT TO THE CONGRESS A REPORT-

- (1) RECOMMENDING STEPS TO BE TAKEN TO UTILIZE MORE EFFECTIVELY THE TRANSMISSION FACILITIES FOR INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING, BOTH EXISTING AND PLANNED, OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT;
- (2) EXAMINING THE FEASIBILITY OF GREATER COOPERATION WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES TO INSURE MUTUALLY EFFICIENT USE OF NATIONALLY OWNED AND NATIONALLY

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FUNDED TRANSMISSION FACILITIES FOR INTERNATIONAL

BROADCASTING;

(3) CONTAINING A COMPREHENSIVE OUTLINE OF PROJECTED NEEDS FOR UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING OPERATIONS BASED ON ANTICIPATED LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS AND ANTICIPATED COOPERATION AMONG VARIOUS

AGENCIES OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT-FUNDED ORGANIZATIONS, AND FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS INVOLVED IN INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING..."

FSO (RET.) JOSEPH GODSON, BIB CONSULTANT IN LONDON, WILL ACCOMPANY ABSHIRE AND ROBERTS. UNDERSTAND EMBASSY OFFICER INVITED TO HOUSE OF COMMONS TEA. DEPARTMENT WISHES TO REEMPHASIZE THAT BRITISH OPTION FOR BIB TRANSMITTERS COULD STILL BE NEEDED. IN CASE BIB ENCOUNTERS DIFFICULTIES WITH RENEWAL SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE LEASES. (FYI PL 94-350 AUTHORIZES BIB TO PROCURE AND OWN TRANSMITTERS). ABSHIRE AND ROBERTS WILL BRIEF EMBASSY RE STATUS THESE LEASES. BIB OFFICERS DO NOT PLAN ON CALLING ON FCO THIS TIME BUT EMBASSY OFFICERS SHOULD CONTINUE IN THEIR DISCUSSIONS WITH BRITISH OFFICIALS TO STRESS THAT U.S. GOVT DOES NOT YET HAVE ASSURED TRANSMISSION SITES IN SPAIN AND PORTUGAL AND MAY HAVE TO COME BACK TO HMG RE RELAY FACILITIES IF THOSE SITES NOT AVAILABLE.

ROBINSON

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